

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/706,001

Examiner

George D. Spisich

Applicant(s)

FISCHER ET AL.

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed May 4, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DAVID R. DUNN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

George D. Spisich
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3616

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas D. Fekete (Reg. No. 29,065) on July 19, 2006.

In the claims:

Claims 15-19 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 29-34, as follows:

29. (New) A method for the attachment of a steering column to a cross-member of a motor vehicle, said steering column having a front and a rear, said method comprising

providing a front holding means for suspending the front of the steering column;

providing a rear holding means for suspending the rear of the steering column, said rear holding means including an arm attached to the steering column, and a support section attached to the cross-member having a bore;

inserting said arm into said bore such that the steering column is hooked to the support section;

pivoting the steering column about the rear holding means;

subsequently displacing the steering column toward the front to engage the front holding means, thereby freely suspending the steering column in a pre-installation state; and

installing the steering column to the cross-member.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising

inserting a centering pin on said steering column into a bore in said support to align the steering column with the cross-member.

31. The method of claim 29 further comprising wherein the step of installing the steering column comprises fastening the steering column to the support section of the cross-member.

32. The method of claim 31 further comprising wherein the step of fastening the steering column comprises screwing the steering column to the support section.

33. The method of claim 29 further comprising wherein the bore is

elongated, and wherein the step of fastening the steering column comprises upwardly moving the steering column from the pre-installation state to a final installation state.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the front holding means comprises an arm projecting upwardly from the steering column and comprising a spigot, and a support arm attached to the cross-member and having a bore, and

wherein said step of pivoting the steering column comprises pivoting the steering column to position said spigot relative to said bore in said support arm; and

wherein the step of displacing the steering column toward said front includes inserting the spigot within the bore in said support arm.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior Art does not show a steering column attachment apparatus or method including arm of a rear holding means received in a bore of a cross member such that the steering column is hooked so as to pivot the steering column and subsequently displace the column to engage front holding means to freely suspend the steering column in a pre-installed state.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hoblingre (USPN 5,584,211), Lewandowski et al. (USPN 5,819,592).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George D. Spisich whose telephone number is (571) 272-6676. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00 to 6:30 except alt. Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

George D. Spisich
July 20, 2006



DAVID R. DUNN
PRIMARY EXAMINER